

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION**

**In re: BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.,
TIRES PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

) **Master File No. IP 00-9373-C-B/S**
) **MDL NO. 1373**

**THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL
ACTIONS**

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ENTRY FOR MARCH 7, 2002

The parties appeared, by counsel, this date for a telephonic status conference, during which the following was discussed:

1. Tracy Walker, counsel for Ford, assured the magistrate judge that both before and after the magistrate judge's Entry for February 5, 2002, Ford's search for documents responsive to the plaintiffs' discovery requests included the files in its Office of General Counsel, and all privileged documents it found in its search were included on its privilege log.
2. The division of time between the state attorneys and the MDL attorneys for the deposition of William Clay Ford was discussed, and plaintiffs' counsel agreed to contact the state attorneys involved and attempt to resolve the issue.
3. The issue was raised whether the tire preservation order in this case applies to "companion tires"—that is, the non-failing tires that were on a vehicle when one tire failed—such that destructive testing may not be conducted on any companion tire. The magistrate judge suggested that Firestone file a motion to clarify that point, but in the meantime strongly recommended that all parties assume that companion tires are subject to the preservation order. Firestone agreed to work with plaintiffs' counsel to provide sample tires for testing purposes in cases in which the type of tires involved are no longer readily available for purchase.
4. Victor Diaz requested that Ford promptly provide him with the 26 boxes of documents relevant to depositions scheduled in Venezuela in mid-April; Ford promised that the documents would be sent by the beginning of next week.

5. Robin Weaver, counsel for Bridgestone Corporation, reported that the depositions of Bridgestone employees in Japan are proceeding quite well. Bridgestone requested and was granted until April 15th to return the errata sheets from those depositions.
6. The defendants will notify Bill Winingham, plaintiffs' liaison counsel, of any personal injury case in which expert reports were not served by the deadline, so that any problem with service can be corrected.
7. The plaintiffs report that they have received the so-called Australian shock absorber kit from Ford, but that it is missing a mounting bracket and a transfer shock. Counsel for Ford will discuss the issue with one of the Ford engineers who are familiar with the kits and report to the magistrate judge Ford's position regarding the relevance of those two pieces.
8. The next telephonic status conference will be held on **Monday, March 18, 2002**, at noon.

The call will be arranged by counsel for Bridgestone Corporation.

ENTERED this _____ day of March 2002.

V. Sue Shields
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Indiana

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